

NEWS RELEASE

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SUSTAINABLE PREPARATIONS FOR THE PREDICTED RAINFALL

Office of Sustainability recommends rain barrel benefits during storm

INDIANAPOLIS – The City of Indianapolis is taking all the proper precautions to prepare for the predicted rainfall to hit this weekend. Rain barrels offer an easy solution to water collection for your indoor and outdoor plants as well as for your lawn.

Rain barrels are storm water storage systems designed to capture rainwater for either slowed release into natural or engineered storm water systems, or for other non-portable uses, such as irrigation. These systems are fed by downspouts and have a limited capacity for rain water storage, but provide excellent capture of water to reuse.

Rain barrels come in many different forms and capacity levels, but most can be constructed from the following items:

- A roof leader or runoff to the barrel
- A screen to prevent debris and mosquitoes from entering
- At least a 55 gallon barrel
- A slow release mechanism or pump to dispense the collected water
- And an overflow mechanism for when the barrel is full.

If you have a rain barrel already in place, there are a few things you can do to make sure it is ready to for the predicted rainfall. Make sure the barrel is empty and properly disinfected as well as clear all debris to ensure that the screen is not clogged and properly keeps leaves and other debris from entering the barrel.

Rain barrels are great for plant watering or car washing, but the water should not be used for drinking, cooking or bathing. Keep Indianapolis Beautiful will host a Rain Barrel workshop on October 16; participants to this hands-on workshop will construct a working rain barrel to take home, for a small fee. For more information on the workshop or how to register please visit <http://www.kibi.org/shop/events/rain-barrels-101>.

For more information on how to construct your own rain barrel and other sustainable initiatives visit www.indy.gov/sustainindy.

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